

MEMO TO: AASA Members DATE: May 4, 2010

**RE**: Projection of National Education Job Cuts for 2010-11 School Year

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Results from AASA's latest economic impact survey, <u>Cliff Hanger</u>, indicated that anticipated jobs cuts for the 2009-10 and 2010-11 school years would surpass the number of jobs saved by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. AASA surveyed its members to document -- state by state -- the prospect of personnel cuts and hiring freezes for the coming 2010-11 school year. With both houses of Congress already considering a second round of stimulus funding targeted to education jobs, the results of this follow-up survey -- focusing solely on accounting for job cuts -- make a startling case and bolster support for additional federal funding.

In an effort to garner only one response from each district, AASA surveyed only its superintendent members in April 2010. Illustrating the significance of this issue, 1,479 members from 49 states completed this survey in less than one week. This significant sample size represents almost 11 percent<sup>i</sup> of the nation's school districts, is representative of the nation's schools and lends itself to reliable national projection. What did they tell us?

- More than half (53 percent) of districts will freeze hiring;
- Eighty-two percent of districts will cut and eliminate 27,516 education jobs in 2010-11:
  - o 14,878 teacher jobs;
  - o 2,582.5 support personnel jobs,
  - o 1,501 administrative jobs; and
  - o 8,554.9 classified jobs.
- We estimate that nationally 275,000 education jobs are on the chopping block for the 2010-11 school year.
- These 275,000 jobs represent 92 percent of the 300,000 jobs the administration estimated ARRA saved.
- The cuts will push pupil-to-teacher ratios from 15:1 to 17:1<sup>ii</sup> if Congress and the Administration fail to provide a second round of stimulus funding for education jobs.
- Cutting 275,000 education jobs would deal a devastating blow to public education and will have a negative
  effect on economic recovery. Dr. Lawrence Mishel of the Economic Policy Institute told AASA, 'Every
  100,000 education jobs lost will be roughly 30,000 jobs lost in other sectors due to the lost spending by
  schools and those laid off.'
  - Collectively, then, the 275,000 education jobs will translate into more than 82,000 job cuts in other sectors, bringing the total job loss across job sectors to 357,000.

More than 48 million students will show up for school this fall, regardless of any federal action to stave of education job cuts. AASA strongly supports federal efforts to help America's schools avoid massive job cuts and stem the tide of the economic downturn.

National Center for Education Statistics, <u>Digest of Education Statistics</u>: 2009: Representing education statistics for the 2007-08 school year, the digest reported 13,924 districts in the nation employing 3,178,142 teachers and educating 48,183,858 students in America's public elementary and secondary schools.

ii Ibid.